

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 9, 17, and 25. Applicants have cancelled claims 6, 14, and 22. Also, Applicants have added claims 26-49.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,347,306 (Swart).

Amended claim 1 now recites “interfacing said data to one or more independent software applications for processing of said data by said applications wherein one of said independent software applications is an accounts payable program.”

Swart does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claim 1. Swart discloses a method and a system for automatically paying employees net pay immediately upon completion of a work segment provides time and attendance, human resource, payroll processing, and banking computer systems interconnected via an on-line computer network. (Abstract). Swart discloses how a net work segment pay is retrieved from a payroll processing system 230 into a banking system, which then issues a check or a direct deposit into the employee's bank account (FIG. 2; col. 7, lines 32-47). Applicants fail to see how Swart teaches an accounts payable system. Instead, the banking system in Swart issues payment based on the net work segment pay from the payroll processing system 230, which is a payroll function and not an accounts payable function. According to the Webster's College Dictionary 2000 Second and Revised and Updated Random House edition, an account payable is “a liability to a creditor, usually for purchases of

goods and services,” while a payroll is “a list of employees to be paid, with the amount due to each.” Absent a teaching of an accounts payable program, claim 1 is allowable over Swart.

Claims 2-5 and 7-8 are dependent on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants have amended independent claims 9, 17, and 25 with a similar limitation. Thus, claims 9, 17, and 25 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 10-13, 15-16, 18-21, 23-24 are dependent on claims 9, 17 or 25 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claims 9, 17, and 25.

Applicants have also added new claims 26-49. Swart does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claims 26-49. As discussed above, Swart does not teach or suggest an accounts payable system. Additionally, Swart does not teach or suggest expense data as recited in claims 26-49.

Further, even assuming for the sake of argument that some communications between a payroll system and an accounts payable system exist in the art, claims 26-49 advantageously provide one time and expense database for entry of time and expense data to the payroll system and the accounts payable system, which ensures more consistent, efficient, and correct data entry. Separate entry programs for the payroll system and the accounts payable system may lead to errors because of duplicative data entry. Thus, claims 26-49 are also allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-49.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, this application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow this application. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the number below if he has any questions or if there are remaining outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/22/04

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